

BW401
W48ME

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE
WESLEYAN ASSOCIATION

1836

BW401
W48 M5

Wes. 1540

James Hibbert
MINUTES
September 1836
OF THE

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

OF

THE DELEGATES

OF THE

WESLEYAN ASSOCIATION,

BEGUN IN MANCHESTER ON WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 3, 1836.

LONDON :

PUBLISHED BY SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, AND CO.
3, STATIONERS' HALL COURT,
Also to be had at the TABERNACLE, Stephenson Square,
Manchester.

MDCCCXXXVI.

BW 461
W 48 M 5

Wes. 1540

NOTICE.

Although the General Principles adopted by the Delegates in the following MINUTES, are such as there is reason to believe will commend themselves to the judgment and approbation of the Members of the Association at large, it is distinctly understood that the details, of disciplinary regulation especially, are open for consideration throughout the year, and correction at the next Annual Assembly.

WES. TÉ TU

MINUTES, &c.

AT a Meeting of Delegates of the WESLEYAN ASSOCIATION, convened by the Central Committee of Manchester and Liverpool, and held by adjournments in the Tabernacle, Stephenson Square, Manchester, from Wednesday the third, till Tuesday the ninth of August, in the year One thousand eight hundred and thirty-six;

SAMUEL WARREN, LL. D. being (*pro tempore*) chosen Chairman, and R. B. GRINDROD, Esq. Secretary;

The following persons were ascertained from official documents to have been duly chosen as Delegates to represent their respective Societies, viz. :—

<i>Manchester</i>	-	W. T. Hesketh, Jabez Sanderson, J. J. Lees, Thomas Taylor, William Matthews, Thomas Barlow,
-------------------	---	--

No of -
Members at

Preachers'

6

3006.

Manchester

George Hughes,

Warren

John Greenhalgh,

Roebuck

William Souter,

Edgar

Thomas Arnold,

Gibber

John Hart,

Githland

Thomas Townend.

Rutherford,

William Howson,

I Peter

Richard Farrer,

Wright

William Johnson,

David Rowland,

J. A. Picton.

Robert Eckett,

Joshua Nettleton,

Richard Barford.

James Sigston,

Walsh

Matthew Johnson,

Robins

N. Pearson,

& dark

J. Mallinson.

D. Partington.

James Livesey,

Edward Potts.

John Whittaker,

Blythman

George Rowlinson.

Rowlinson

John Beswick.

Thomas Waller,

John Hall,

John Beard,

Thomas Brosho.

W. Thompson, sen,

Joshua Fielden,

John Hill,

William Slater,

Eli Sutcliffe.

324

Blackley

Bury

Stockport

^{not sent}
Bullocksmithy

New Mills

4054.

Todmorden

280.

Weshaw

20 Fatur

372

93

7372			
40	Pendlebury	of Height	Peachers sent.
1190	Rochdale		
			George Ashworth,
			Samuel Heap,
			John Petrie.
			Rowland
			Moolineux
	Heywood		Moses Cheetham,
635	Burnley		Elisha Townend.
			William Ince,
			James Curedale
590	Northwich		Edward Dignum,
			George Robinson,
			James Edwards.
497	Nantwich		H. M. Bunbury,
			John Davenport.
200	Blackburn		John Wear,
			James Clithero.
280	Preston	or	William Cruickshank.
61	Prescot		James Scarisbrick.
44	Warrington		John Lister.
	Sandbach		Ralph Jepson.
225	Keighley		Joseph Smith.
222	Clithero		John Bromley.
322	Sheffield		J. Worrel.
80	Worksop		George Stacey.
400	Barnsley		J. S. Methley.
128	Bradford		Henry Crossley.
200	Birmingham		Thomas Hickling,
			William Lilley.
430	Stourbridge		John Blurton.
1100	Dudley		John Gordon,
	Barnard Castle		William Sheldon.
84	Worcester		Enoch Darke.
82	Chatham		William Holmes.
182	Winchester		William Redstone.
461	Camelford		Thomas Ellery.
590	Portsmouth		Browne
200	Stockton		Wrightington
5920	15920.		94

No. of Members

~~15920~~

208

300

50

35

300

250

541

180

Nottingham -

Hull - -

Louth - -

Whitby ~~Abercrombie~~ -

Darlington -

Whitehaven -

Carlisle -

Edinburgh -

Scotch Methodist

102 Paisley Churches -

Dundee -

Carrickfergus -

40 Perth -

65 Glasgow -

8

John Storey.

William Sisson.

William Brett.

Joseph Blythman.

Green Atkinson.

Daniel Douglas.

Robert Harley.

John Lowthian.

Robert Anderson.

J. C. Kennedy,

D. K. Shoebottom.

Samuel Heyes.

Wallace

Kennedy

Briggs

Same

Edward

Stewart

Dawson

Townend

Bindo

Stationed Preachers Present

~~14021~~ SAMUEL WARREN, LL.D.

J. B. SHEPPARD,

JOHN PETERS,

WILLIAM LOGAN,

ROBERT HARLEY.

N.B.—Letters from Circuits which could not conveniently send Delegates were received from the following places, and read to the Meeting—

~~18241~~ Patrington,

Plymouth,

Devonport,

Tavistock,

Ruabon,

Gosport,

Isle of Man,

Helston,

Wakefield.

Williams

Williams

Williams

Williams

~~18250~~

18470

95

Resolved, That the Stationed Preachers present be Members of this Meeting.

I.—The Meeting then proceeded to elect the President and Secretaries, when the following persons were declared to be duly elected :—

SAMUEL WARREN, LL.D., President.

MATTHEW JOHNSON, Secretary.*

JOHN PETERS, Sub-Secretary.

II.—*Resolved*, That the Members of the various Methodist Societies, on shewing their Society Tickets, have free access to all the public sittings of this Meeting, but are not to take any part in the transaction of its business.

III.—*Resolved*, that a Protest be addressed by this Meeting, in the name and on behalf of the Wesleyan Association, to the Conference of Preachers now assembled in Birmingham, on the subject of the Violations of Methodist law, and infringements upon the rights and privileges of the Members of the Methodist Societies, which have led to the present agitated state of that Connexion.

The following “ Protest” was unanimously adopted :—

* Mr. J. J. LEES was chosen one of the Secretaries, but was unable, till nearly the close of the Meeting, through indisposition, to discharge any of his duties.

96

PROTEST

OF THE MEMBERS OF THE "WESLEYAN ASSOCIATION"
AGAINST THE CONDUCT OF THE "METHODIST
CONFERENCE."

*To the Methodist Conference of Preachers assembled at
Birmingham.*

We, the Delegates of the WESLEYAN ASSOCIATION, now assembled in the town of Manchester, from various parts of this kingdom, having deliberately reviewed your transactions, at the Conference held in Sheffield, and published in your Minutes of 1835, but especially that document which purports to be "*an Answer*" to "*an Address*," which the Delegates presented at that time to the Conference; an Address dictated in a spirit the most Christian and conciliatory, and expressed in language the most respectful, as the document itself abundantly attests; in which pretended answer the Delegates were insultingly told that you announce at once "*your deliberate and unalterable resolution, not to hold any intercourse with them*;" consider ourselves precluded, under present circumstances, from entertaining the remotest expectation of inducing you to listen to any terms of conciliation and adjustment, however reasonable or Christian those terms might be.

Having, therefore, despaired of your consenting to meet us in the spirit of our common Christianity, and having been repulsed with a rudeness and uncharitableness unseemly in any public body, but more especially in a body of professedly Christian Ministers, with an expressed determination neither to redress any of the grievous wrongs inflicted on us, nor even to permit us the privilege of uttering our complaints in your "*paternal ears*":—

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. J. T." or "G. J. T. 1835".

We do now, in the presence of God, and before the whole Christian world, enter this our SOLEMN PROTEST against your unrighteous and anti-Scriptural acts and deeds ; your Conference having, in the first place, violated a solemn compact entered into by your predecessors, as under the sanction of an oath,* and then (adding cruelty to insult) having employed your utmost efforts, both from the press and the pulpit, to misrepresent and calumniate those whom you had previously deprived of their dearest rights.

Without entering into further detail, we remind you of your violation of the compact entered into with the whole Methodist Connexion in 1797, by trampling under your feet the rights of the Local Meetings, in the notorious case of Leeds in 1827 ; subsequently in your unconstitutionally establishing the Theological Institution, at the very same Conference (1834) in which it was for the *first time* named, in violation of the same compact of 1797, in which the whole Connexion are assured that, " in order to prevent any degree of precipitation in making new rules, and to obtain information of the sentiments of our people on every such rule, no regulations will be finally confirmed till after a year's consideration, and the knowledge of the sentiments of the Connexion at large, through the medium of all their public officers ;" and lastly, in your late Minutes of 1835, *having openly resumed the power* which your predecessors in 1797 conceded to the people, and part of which concessions they explicitly

* To the document, bearing date *Leeds, August 7th, 1797*, the signatures of 145 preachers, including the president and secretary of the Conference, are affixed, preceded by the following solemn words :—We do now, voluntarily and in good faith, sign our names, as approving of and engaging to comply with the aforesaid collection of rules or code of laws, *God being our helper.*



declared (in two separate editions of the Rules of the Society, published in the years 1798 and 1800, at the Conference office, and circulated by thousands by the Preachers) to mean, that "no Leader or Steward can be put out of his place, but by a majority of leaders or a quarterly meeting; neither can any member of the Society be excluded but by a majority at a leaders' meeting." In shameless violation of this most important right, ceded in 1797, you have published in your last Minutes that on the Superintendent Preacher *alone* devolves "the *sole* right and duty" (the bare fact of a violation of some Methodistical rule being proved) "of deciding on the measures to be adopted towards the offender," even to "the extreme penalty of expulsion."

Whilst we are thus constrained to protest against your violating a solemn Covenant made with us and with the whole Methodist Connexion, and also against your expelling members of society in large numbers, by laws of your own making, *to which the people never consented*; we call upon the whole Christian world to witness that the endeavour to be reconciled to our offending brethren on any terms consistent with reason and religion has not been wanting on *our* part, but has been frustrated wholly in consequence of the Methodist Conference refusing to listen to any overtures made by the members of the Wesleyan Association. Still we wish it to be distinctly understood that we consider ourselves as not surrendering a fraction of those just rights which we previously possessed in the Methodist Connexion, and of which we have been unrighteously and wickedly deprived by the Methodist Conference. On the contrary, we publicly avow our unimpaired and inalienable right to reclaim them whenever the truth and justice of our cause shall

99.

have triumphed over the tyranny and oppression which have disinherited us of our lawful possession.

Signed by order and on behalf of the
Assembled Delegates,

SAMUEL WARREN, President.

MATTHEW JOHNSON, Secretary.

Manchester, August 4th, 1836.

A letter, of which the following is a copy, was sent at the same time:—

To the President of the Methodist Conference.

SIR,—We are directed by the Meeting of Delegates assembled here, to transmit to you the above Document, and to request that if any communication be intended to be made on the subject to the Delegates, it may be sent at the latest on Saturday next.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

SAMUEL WARREN, President.

MATTHEW JOHNSON, Secretary.

Manchester, Aug. 4th, 1836.

IV.—After a discussion of two entire days of the important business before the Meeting, a most delightful and harmonious conclusion was arrived at, by the adoption of the following Resolutions, and with the exception of *one** vote only, by a unanimous decision of the whole Meeting:—

* One of *two* dissentients, subsequently called upon the President, and in the presence of witness wished his opposition to be withdrawn; stating that he gave his vote under misapprehension. The motion therefore passed unanimously, with only *one* exception.

Resolved,—

1. That in the judgment of this Meeting the period has now arrived, when provisional regulations for the government of the Societies connected with the Wesleyan Association should be adopted, and also for supplying such Circuits as require it with Ministerial aid.

2. That for the purpose of drawing up the outline of such a System, a Committee be now appointed, consisting of the following persons, viz.—

The President and Secretaries,

Messrs. Robert Eckett,

Green Atkinson,

James Sigston,

Richard Farrer,

H. M. Bunbury,

John Greenhalgh,

William Souter,

William Matthews,

William Sisson,

Joah Mallinson,

Messrs. John Petrie,

William Wood,

George Hughes,

John Peters,

James Livesey,

Thos. Hickling,

J. A. Picton,

D. K. Shoebottom,

Samuel Heap,

J. C. Kennedy,

who shall report to the Meeting the result of their deliberations, at as early a period as possible.

3. That the Meeting is deeply impressed with the conviction of the desirableness of a union,—on New Testament principles,—of all the branches of the Methodist Family, and it is an instruction to the Committee now appointed to take into their most serious consideration, and report to the Meeting, what measures can be adopted to effect such a purpose, at the earliest practicable period.

V.—The above Committee having met, and reported their proceedings, their report was received, and the Meeting adopted the following

GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

1817
Page 9

First, That this Meeting recognizes and holds as the only and sufficient rule of Faith and Practice, and also of Church Government, the Holy Scriptures, especially the NEW TESTAMENT of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and regards as matters indifferent, so far as membership with a Christian Church is concerned, whatever is not manifestly enjoined in those infallible records.

Second, That the members of this Association are desirous of cultivating, to the utmost of their ability, a catholic spirit, and to live on terms of the most affectionate Christian Communion with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ. But they especially desire union with all the branches of the Methodist Family.

Third, That on subjects of Doctrine, they entertain views according with those which were generally taught by Mr. Wesley, and are admitted by the various branches of the Methodist community as consistent with the Holy Scriptures.

Fourth, That all persons who profess a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from their sins, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and who evidence their sincerity by renouncing sin, and yielding obedience to the Divine

command, are eligible to become members of our Societies.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF
GENERAL UNION.

First, That it is desirable that some plan should be devised by which the different Societies who are separated from the Wesleyan Conference may be brought so to unite, as that they may regard each other as members of one common family, professing one common faith, cultivating friendship towards each other, adopting a common token of membership, and uniting as may be practicable in promoting plans for general usefulness. Each Society to be at liberty to have such particular rules as to Church government, and as to its ministry, as each may think proper to adopt; provided that there be nothing in the rules so adopted clearly repugnant to the Word of God. Such Societies to be understood to be at liberty to become re-united to the Conference Connexion whenever it shall have such a form of Church government as they may regard to be in accordance with the Holy Scriptures.

Second, That it be recommended to the Annual Assembly of Delegates to appoint a Committee, to whom the necessary powers and authorities shall be deputed to enter into negotiation with any section of Methodists, with a view to their forming a con-

stituent part of the proposed General Union: and when the whole of the preliminary arrangements necessary to such a measure shall have been completed; if requisite, a general meeting of Delegates shall be convened, for the final settlement of the whole business.

VI.—*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed for the above-mentioned purpose, consisting of the following persons:—

The President and Secretaries,

Messrs. Richard Farrer,	✓	Messrs. David Rowland,	✓
William Matthews,	<i>m</i>	William Souter,	<i>m</i>
J. A. Picton,	✓	Charles Parker,	<i>L</i>
George Hughes,	<i>m</i>	Richard Barford,	<i>L</i>
William Johnson,	✓	George Ashworth,	
James Livesey,	<i>b</i>	H. M. Bunbury,	
William Smith,	<i>s</i>	George Turton,	
Robert Eckett,	<i>L</i>	T. P. Rosevear,	<i>c</i>
Robert Emmett,	<i>y</i>	James Sigston,	<i>L</i>
John Greenhalgh,	<i>m</i>	George Cookman,	<i>L</i>
William Wood,	<i>m</i>	D. K. Shoebottom.	

VII.—*Resolved*, That the Meeting having already placed on the Minutes an expression of its desire to establish a General Christian Confederation with such Societies of Methodists as are not already united with the Wesleyan Association, and appointed a Committee to carry into effect its wishes in this respect, deems it proper also to instruct the Committee to enter into negociation with any sections of Methodists adopting a system

of Itinerancy and holding Doctrinal and Disciplinary views in unison with the Association, who are wishful to form a General Connexional Union with it, subject in all cases to the approval and sanction of the Annual Assembly.

VIII.—*Resolved*, 1. That this Meeting taking into its consideration the great and beneficial results of an Itinerant Ministry, as exhibited in the whole history of Methodism, feels it a duty strongly to recommend to such Circuits in the Wesleyan Association as have not already adopted this system, to avail themselves as early as convenient of its advantages.

2. That for the purpose of aiding those Circuits desirous of availing themselves of Itinerancy, whose means, arising from their limited numbers, or other peculiar circumstances, prevent them from wholly maintaining a Stationed Preacher, and also for the purpose of employing Home Missionaries in such parts of the kingdom as may be deemed advisable, a Fund shall be established which shall be called the “HOME MISSIONARY FUND.”

3. That it be recommended to the Circuits in the Association to contribute to the support of this Fund, as heretofore, by a yearly collection in the classes to be mentioned at the March Quarterly Visitation, and the money to be collected by the Leaders in the May following; and also by the

103

usual July collection, or the holding of an Annual Home Missionary Meeting ; or in some other way more convenient to themselves.

4. That this Fund shall be under the management of a Committee to be hereafter appointed, to whom all applications for assistance shall be made by the Circuits requiring it. That the Committee shall lay before each Annual Assembly a detailed statement of receipts and payments during the preceding year, for its consideration and sanction.

IX.—Report of a Committee appointed for suggesting such further arrangements as may be necessary for the guidance of the Societies in the management of their affairs :—

Resolved,

1. That the next Annual Assembly of the Delegates shall be held at Liverpool on the first Wednesday in August 1837, the Delegates to be chosen by the Quarterly or Society Meetings, in the Wesleyan Association. Its business shall be to admit Preachers into, or exclude them, if necessary, from the Itinerancy; to station the Preachers; to assist or advise the respective Circuits, and to take into consideration the propriety of recommending any new rule or regulation to the respective Societies, for their adoption.

2. That the mode of the future construction of the Annual Assembly be referred to the special



consideration of the next June Quarterly Meetings, and they are respectfully requested to instruct their Representatives to the Annual Assembly on this important subject.

1857
page 9.

3. That every Circuit have the right and power to govern itself by its Local Courts, without the interference of any Yearly Meeting, as to the management of its internal affairs.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

1. That the Circuit Quarterly Meeting shall consist of all the Preachers, Leaders, Stewards, and Trustees being members of Society; together with such other persons as the respective Societies may think fit to be added to them, and shall have the management of all the affairs of the Circuit.

2. That each Circuit shall have the right of appointing any Preacher it may think best qualified to fill the office of Chairman to the Circuit, subject to such regulations as the Circuit may think fit to adopt.

LEADERS' MEETING.

That the Leaders' Meeting shall consist of the Chairman of the Circuit when present, of the Leaders of the Society and Poor's Stewards, with the Chapel or Trustee Stewards, being members of Society; together with such other persons as the respective Quarterly Meetings may think proper to add to them. And to have the management of the

105

affairs of their respective Societies, subject to the final revision of the Quarterly Meeting in case of appeal against any of its decisions.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. That no person be engaged as a Stationed Preacher, unless recommended by a majority of the Quarterly Meeting to which he belongs, and approved of by the Annual Assembly after his examination ; or in the event of his being called out, during the interval of the Annual Assembly then he must be approved by the Connexional Committee to be appointed by the Annual Assembly. The Preachers to remain on trial for four years, except in such cases as the Annual Assembly shall otherwise determine.
2. That the Salary of a Single Preacher, be not less than £60. per annum.
3. That the Salary of a Married Preacher be not less than £90. per annum, besides house-rent, taxes, and furniture.
4. That for children under seven years of age, the allowance shall be £6. 6s. per annum ; above that age and up to fourteen years, the amount to be determined at some future period ; but no allowance to be made for children born before the entrance of the Preacher into the Itinerancy, except by special agreement.

X.—*Resolved*, That the Finances for the work of the Ministry be raised by the Weekly and

100

Quarterly Subscriptions of the People.

XI.—Resolved, 1. That the Meeting of Delegates held at Manchester in April 1835, having ratified and confirmed a resolution of its General Committee, to request the body of Wesleyan Protestant Methodists to unite with the Association in its objects and designs, and such union having harmoniously, and to the satisfaction of both parties, continued to the present time, this Meeting is of opinion that it is exceedingly desirable for the interests of all, that a nearer approximation should be made, and that the Protestant Methodists should now be recommended to assume the designation of, and merge into, “The Wesleyan Association.”

2, That Dr. Warren and Mr. Robert Eckett be a Deputation from this Meeting to the Yearly Meeting of the Protestant Methodists, and lay before it the request of the Delegate Meeting on this subject.

XII.—Resolved, That the Meeting has great pleasure in placing on record the satisfaction it has derived from the visit of Messrs. C. J. Kennedy and D. K. Shoebottom, as the Representatives of their brethren of the Methodist Churches in Scotland, who are separated from the Wesleyan Conference; and for the Christian unity and kindness, as well as wisdom and moderation, which have characterized their intercourse with the Delegates;

and looks forward with pleasing anticipation to those mutual interchanges of Christian benevolence and brotherly affection, which it was the special object of their visit to establish.

XIII.—A Committee of the whole House proceeded to ascertain what Circuits are wishful to have one or more Preachers stationed with them during the ensuing year, and also who are recommended to be received on trial by the Association as Stationed Preachers; also, to take into their consideration the Financial affairs of the Association, and what Circuits may need assistance to carry on the work of God during the year; and also to report upon the best means of raising the necessary supplies.

☞ The insertion of the particulars included in the above inquiries is postponed, till the formal approval of the Circuits be obtained.

XIV.—*Resolved*, That all the Candidates for the Itinerant work shall be examined by the Annual Assembly, or by a Committee specially appointed for that purpose, subject in all cases to the approval of the Annual Assembly.

XV.—*Resolved*, 1. That a Committee be appointed to examine the Candidates for the Itinerant Ministry now before the Meeting, and directed to attend at Manchester for examination, and that their inquiries shall have reference to

108

religious experience, moral character, call to the Ministry, Doctrinal Sentiments, the state of their pecuniary circumstances, and their attachment to the principles of the Association, and also any other subjects which may be deemed proper.

2. That the following persons be the Committee :—

The President and Secretaries,	
Messrs. Thomas Taylor,	Messrs. William Matthews,
William Wood,	George Hughes,
William Souter,	W. T. Hesketh,
James Livesey,	David Rowland,
Thomas Waller,	J. J. Lees.
John Greenhalgh,	

XVI.—*Resolved*, 1. That a Committee be appointed to transact, during the interval of the Annual Assembly, its general business, to be denominated the CONNEXIONAL COMMITTEE, which shall also manage the affairs of the Home Missionary Fund. That they be authorized, if necessary, to call out and employ additional Preachers, or Home Missionaries, during the year, if regularly recommended by the Quarterly Meetings of the Circuits in which they reside, subject in all cases to the approval and confirmation of the ensuing Annual Assembly.

2. That the following persons be the Committee for the ensuing year :—

169.

The President and Secretaries,
 Messrs. William Smith, Messrs. T. P. Rosevear,
 Richard Farrer,
 George Ashworth,
 Robert Eckett,
 Robert Emmitt,
 H. M. Bunbury,
 George Turton,
 William Johnson,
 James Livesey,
 I. A. Picton,
 George Hughes,
 James Sigston,
 George Cookman,
 William Matthews,
 David Rowland,
 William Souter,
 John Greenhalgh,
 William Wood,
 D. K. Shoebottom,
 Charles Parker,
 Richard Barford.

XVII.—*Resolved*, That the names of all the persons appointed on the above Committee, shall be placed also on the Committee for arranging any proposed union of Methodist Bodies, during the year; and should any extraordinary emergency arise to render such a step necessary, they shall be authorised to convene a Special General Meeting of Delegates, sufficient public notice being previously given to that effect.

XVIII.—*Resolved*, That as we believe that those who are called by Christ to preach the Gospel, and who render their services gratuitously, are not thereby less qualified to exercise any of the offices of the Christian Ministry, than those who are maintained by the contributions of the Church; they therefore are eligible to be appointed by the Quarterly Meeting or the Societies to discharge any of the offices of the Christian Ministry.

XIX.—*Resolved*, That in any official document or public announcement of the Wesleyan Association, or of the respective Societies, it is inexpedient that the term “Reverend,” should be used in connexion with the name of any Preacher in the Association.

XX.—*Resolved*, That the Secretaries be directed to write to the Societies who have not yet reported the number of their members to the Meeting, in order to make an official return.

XXI.—*Resolved*, That the Minutes of this Meeting be printed, and forwarded to the respective Circuits, and that they be requested to communicate to the Connexional Committee, as soon as possible, what number of Preachers they require to have appointed to them; and that the Committee be authorised to station the Preachers according to their best discretion.

XXII.—*Resolved*, That Dr. Warren and Mr. Robert Eckett be the deputation to the Meeting to be held in Edinburgh, and that they be requested, if they deem it proper, to visit Belfast also, and any other place in Ireland which may be considered expedient.

XXIII.—*Resolved*, That Mr. Dignum be respectfully requested to visit the Societies in the Wrexham Circuit, at the earliest opportunity.

XXIV.—*Resolved*, That Messrs. Sheppard,



Hickling, and Souter, be a Deputation to visit Dudley, Stourbridge, and Burslem, and lay before the Members of the Association *there*, the arrangements made at the Annual Assembly.

XXV.—*Resolved*, That the Quarterly Tickets for the Societies be prepared by the Connexional Committee in Manchester, during the ensuing year, and each be charged its equal proportion of the expenses of printing them. The heading of the Ticket to be, “Wesleyan Association.”

XXVI.—*Resolved*, That the Connexional Committee be requested to take measures to secure a uniform Edition of the Hymns to be used by the Wesleyan Association, and recommend it for general adoption.

XXVII.—*Resolved*, That it be referred to the consideration of the Connexional Committee, whether a Book-room Concern can be established on joint-stock principles, or any other, in connexion with the Association, for the issuing of a Magazine, and such other publications as the wants of the Association may require: to be conducted by a Committee to be appointed by the Annual Assembly, and responsible to it.

XXVIII.—*Resolved*, That an Address be drawn up and sent to the Methodist Churches in Scotland.—[See the Address at the end.]

XXIX.—*Resolved*, That it be an instruction to



the Committee appointed in reference to the General Union of the various branches of the Wesleyan Societies, to insert the resolutions of this meeting, upon that subject, in the *Christian Advocate*, and in such other newspapers as they may think proper, to give information to the different Societies, who may be likely to enter into the General Union.

XXX.—*Resolved*, That whilst the members of this Meeting are exceedingly anxious to obtain for themselves and their brethren of the Association, the best and most Scriptural rules and regulations for their common government, feeling how much the peace and prosperity of the Church depend upon the accordance of its laws with New Testament principles; yet they wish at the same time to impress upon their own minds, and on the minds of their brethren, that no code of laws, however analogous to those of Primitive times, and no system of Church discipline, however perfect, can be a substitute for the power and Spirit of Christ in his Church, or render unnecessary fervent and constant supplication to God for his continued blessing upon the various societies in the Association. The Meeting feel it a duty, therefore, to call upon all united with them to give themselves afresh to God and to his Church; to seek for larger measures of Divine grace, and closer conformity to the Divine will; to be “instant in season and out of season,” discharging the high and important duties of their respective

113
121

callings in singleness of eye, and with a holy zeal for the glory of God ; to use all the ordinary and special means of grace, praying for and expecting the out-pouring of the Spirit from on high, that a gracious revival of God's work, in the awakening and conversion of sinners, and the building up of the Church, may take place throughout the entire Association and the kindred societies, by the instrumentality of his servants.

XXXI.—*Resolved*, That as the functions of the Manchester and Liverpool Central Committee do now cease, this Meeting records its expressions of thanks to the Members of that Committee, for their valuable services during the past year.

XXXII.—*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Delegates are justly due to Samuel Warren, LL.D., for his judicious, conciliatory, and excellent conduct as President of the Meeting.

XXXIII.—*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Meeting be presented to the Secretary, for his able and efficient conduct.

XXXIV.—*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Mr. J. Peters, for his laborious and valuable services as Sub-Secretary to the Meeting.

XXXV.—*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Delegates are due, and hereby presented to those

Friends in Manchester who have so kindly accommodated them during the period of this Meeting.

At a quarter to nine o'clock, on Tuesday evening, the business of the Annual Assembly finally closed, with the heartfelt thanks of the Members to Almighty God for the special manifestation of his presence and blessing upon the Meeting, during the whole of its sittings.

Signed,

By order and on behalf of the Delegates,

SAMUEL WARREN, President.

MATTHEW JOHNSON, Secretary.

Manchester, August 9, 1836.

☞ All letters, on general business, to be addressed (post-paid) to the President, SAMUEL WARREN, LL.D., 46, Tipping-street, Manchester.

ADDRESS
OF
THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
OF DELEGATES
OF
THE WESLEYAN ASSOCIATION,
TO THE
SCOTCH METHODIST CHURCHES.

DEAR BRETHREN,

We hail, with unfeigned gratitude to God, the period on which we are entering, when the commandments and traditions of men are giving place to the pure and unadulterated WORD OF GOD ; when those systems of Church polity which originated in worldly ambition, and which have had so withering an influence upon the Church of Christ, are yielding to a more Scriptural, and, therefore, a more salutary and efficient form of discipline—a discipline based upon the infallible dictates of Divine Revelation, especially upon the NEW TESTAMENT of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We look forward with delightful anticipation to the time when the prejudices and jealousies generated by sectarian bigotry, to the great detriment of a Catholic spirit, shall be entirely subdued by the Christian charity taught and exemplified by our DIVINE MASTER—that love to one another whereby all men shall know that we are his true disciples. Then shall those minor subjects, whether in doctrine, or in discipline, on which the followers of the Redeemer may innocently differ, no longer occasion

estrangement of heart, or unkindness of conduct. "The envy of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim." United in one common brotherhood, compacted in one solid phalanx, the Church of the living God shall exhibit the delightful influence of divine love, and the mighty energy by which it shall at once achieve the most glorious conquests, and become invulnerable to all the assaults of its enemies.

At the commencement of our arduous conflict, we were unable to form even a conjecture, that such mighty results would follow as those which have already crowned our efforts. But "the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. His way is in the sea, and his path in the great waters, and his footsteps are not known." That which gave rise to our extensive Association was, the invasion of our Christian rights and privileges by professed Ministers of the Gospel, who, instead of naturally caring for the flock, have been reckless in tearing and scattering it; excommunicating from the Methodist Societies multitudes of the most pious, useful, and ornamental Members of the Church, for no other reason than asserting those rights of which they had been unrighteously deprived,—rights which had been made over to them, on the part of the Methodist Conference, by solemn compact; and for remonstrating against their fierce and anti-Christian conduct. In the midst of these sufferings for righteousness' sake, we have still kept our steady and onward course, through "honour and dishonour, through evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true!" the Lord wonderfully working with us, and confirming the word, minis-

tered by our feeble instrumentality, with signs following, in a large accession of true conversions to the faith of Christ. We cannot review the success of the past year in these respects, and in respect of the unexampled peace and harmony which have generally prevailed throughout the Societies in the Association, without feelings of the liveliest gratitude to God. Whilst you will participate in our gladness on these subjects, the announcement of the extraordinary unity of judgment, and of affection, which have characterized the assembly of the delegates during the important discussions of their various sittings, will, we are persuaded, occasion great joy to all the holy brethren.

The reports of the Delegates, from various parts of the kingdom, are of the most cheering character, and afford good ground of hope, that the plans laid down to effect a **GENERAL UNION** of all the branches of the Methodist Family especially, will meet with their cordial approbation. Such a Confederation, as is contemplated, whilst it proposes a combination of counsel, of strength, and of co-operation, in plans of general usefulness, disavows, in the most explicit manner, all attempts to give ascendancy to any individual section of the Church over the rest, or power independent of the people, even in the Annual Assembly, to enact rules for the Association at large, which shall interfere with the right of any Society or Church to govern itself by its own local regulations, so far as they are compatible with the general principles of the Association.

Embracing Christ as the only foundation, and building thereupon only the "gold, silver, and precious stones," of an evangelical faith, and loving obedience, in vain will

118.

conflicting elements exhaust their fury upon the edifice : the gates of hell shall never prevail against the Church. Many great and precious promises in the Volume of inspiration, afford us comfort and encouragement whilst we are endeavouring faithfully to discharge our duty. Our own feebleness and insufficiency form no argument for despondency, mindful of the divine economy, by which God makes choice of " the foolish things of the world to confound the wise ; and weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty ; and base things of the world, and things which are despised ; yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are : that no flesh should glory in his presence." We rely for ultimate success upon the Omnipotent aid of HIM who hath said, " Fear thou not ; for I am with thee : be not dismayed ; for I am thy God : I will strengthen thee ; yea, I will help thee ; yea, I will uphold thee, with the right hand of my righteousness."

Your esteemed Representatives, Messrs. Kennedy and Shoebottom, in company with Mr. Robert Anderson, of Edinburgh, we rejoice to see among us, and to derive the advantage of their judicious counsels in the important deliberations of our Annual Assembly. They will convey to you such further information of our proceedings, and such assurance of our affectionate regards towards you, as may lead to strengthen that bond of union which, we hope, will be rendered a lasting blessing to the Church and to the world.

We have appointed our beloved brethren, Dr. Warren and Mr. Robert Eckett, to attend your approaching yearly Meeting in Edinburgh. We are confident their valuable labours will be duly appreciated by the United Churches

119

of Scotland ; and earnestly pray that their intended visit may be rendered a general blessing to your highly-favoured country, as well as in furthering the special objects of the Association, by diffusing those enlightened and liberal principles of Church Government among the Members of the Wesleyan Community, which have of late been so ably advocated by the friends of the *voluntary principle* in Scotland, and which the Delegates of the Annual Assembly, now present in Manchester, consider among the dearest rights and privileges conveyed to us in the NEW TESTAMENT.

Signed by order, and in behalf of the
Assembled Delegates.

SAMUEL WARREN, President.

MATTHEW JOHNSON, Secretary.

Manchester, August 9, 1836.

CAVE and SEVER, Printers, Manchester.

126

Published, THE WATCHMAN'S LANTERN, in one vol. 8vo., neatly bound in cambric, and lettered, price 4s. Including 28 Numbers, Reports of the First Public Meeting of the Association at Liverpool, Public Documents of the Delegate Meetings at Manchester, Sheffield, &c. &c.

Published, in one volume, 12mo., price 5s., neatly bound in cambric, gilt lettered, SERMONS on Various Subjects. By SAMUEL WARREN, LL.D.

Also, in one volume, 12mo., price 5s., neatly bound in cambric, gilt lettered, MEMOIRS and SELECT LETTERS, of Mrs. Ann Warren; with Biographical Sketches of her Family. By the same AUTHOR.

Also, REMARKS on the Wesleyan Theological Institution, for the Education of the Junior Preachers; together with the Substance of A SPEECH delivered on the subject, in the London Conference of 1834. (Fourth Edition, with an Appendix.) Price 6d. 8vo. By the same AUTHOR.

Also, An Account of the PROCEEDINGS of a SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING, held in Manchester, October 22nd and 23rd, 1834. 8vo. Price 6d. By the same AUTHOR.

To be had at SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, and Co's., London: also at the Tabernacle, Stephenson-square, Manchester; Music Hall, Bold-street, Liverpool; and all Booksellers.

